

III. Quality/Compliance Issues

NHTSA Investigation on Lexus ES350 All Weather Floor Mats – NHTSA is continuing their investigation. They are scheduled to inspect a vehicle that belongs to an individual that is involved in a lawsuit with Toyota over a sudden acceleration event in late July.

NHTSA Investigation on Sienna Liftgate Support Struts – NHTSA has issued three peer vehicle IR letters. These letters were sent to Chrysler, Nissan, and Honda, and their responses are due in August. Ford has recently responded to a peer vehicle IR from NHTSA on this issue. After some recent discussions with ODI, TMA will now be informed when we may have access to all of the peer vehicle IR responses.

Peer Vehicle IR - GM Trailer Hitches – On July 9, TMA submitted the response to NHTSA's peer vehicle inquiry regarding PE07-025, an investigation into 2002 MY GM C/K 2500 Pickups and SUVs. In the response, we provide field data on Tundra and Sequoias for NHTSA to use in comparison to the GM products. Toyota has received complaints from owners of 2 vehicles regarding tow hitch failure. There is a population of over 129,000 peer Sequoias and Tundras in the data submitted.

Foreign Recall Report – Prius Side Airbags – On June 25, TMA submitted a Foreign Recall Report (FRR) regarding an issue with certain Toyota Prius vehicles built at Sichuan FAW Toyota Motor Co., Ltd. [SFTM] for the Chinese market. The subject vehicles are substantially similar to the U.S. market Toyota Prius vehicles. However, the issue is limited only to vehicles built at SFTM, which are not imported into the US. There are 10 vehicles included in this campaign. Due to error in production, there is the possibility that some curtain shield airbags may have been improperly assembled to the vehicles, with the airbag twisted 360 degrees. In this condition, the gas supplied by the inflator may not be enough to completely inflate the curtain in the event of a collision.

IV. Assessment

Frontal and Side NCAP Tests – 2008 MY Scion xB – TMA obtained all of the data and test conditions for TMC. However, TMA had to inform NHTSA that while it is unclear if the addition of an outrigger to carry test equipment and the removal of the rear hatch for the frontal NCAP test affected the results significantly, TMC is accepting the 4 star rating.

OTHER?:

NHTSA Stars on Cars Information – On July 12, TMA received the official vehicle rating list from NHTSA. There were several small issues with the ratings. The Solara was not given a carryover rating for rollover, and the ES350 with rear seat side airbags was not rated for side impact results when it was tested last year. TMA is responding to NHTSA's letter with these issues clarified.